IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (currently amended): A method for processing a database query on a set of data in a database management system having a data manager and an index manager, the method comprising the steps of:

a) in response to a data manager call to locate a data identifier in an index corresponding to a selected key value, performing the steps of:

i) locating the data identifier in the index for the selected key value; and

ii) issuing a callback to the data manager; and

b) continuing to carry out ~~the~~ an index-data fetch for another data identifier if there is another data identifier for the selected key value in the index and the index manager receives a specific condition from the data manager in response to the callback.

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein step a) further comprises:

iii) determining whether the data specified by the data identifier is to be returned to a runtime; and

~~iiii~~iv) allowing the data manager to locate the data specified by the identifier and make a determination.

3. (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the determination involves determining whether a predicate check or a data consuming operation on the data are possible.

4. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the predicate check or the data consuming operation is performed if it is possible to perform the predicate check or the data consuming operation and a specific condition is returned to the index manager.

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5. (original): The method of claim 4 wherein the specific condition comprises a no data return condition.

6. (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the index comprises a plurality of pages having index nodes and the method further comprises the steps of:

c) allowing the index manager to stabilize a page containing a node to be accessed in the index to locate the data identifier for the selected key value wherein the index manager does not release the stabilization of the page during a callback to the data manager.

7. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the index comprises a plurality of pages having index nodes and the database management system supports a set of access processes potentially able to access the index, the method further comprising the steps of:

c) determining if one of the set of access processes is waiting for an exclusive latch for accessing the index;

d) utilizing the index manager to copy the data identifier and key value from the index if there is such an access process; and

e) releasing stabilization of any pages in the index prior to any callback to the data manager.

8. (currently amended): A computer readable medium containing program instructions processing a database query on a set of data in a database management system having a data manager and an index manager, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

a) in response to a data manager call to locate a data identifier in an index corresponding to a selected key value, performing the step of:

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i) locating the data identifier in the index for the selected key value; and

ii) issuing a callback to the data manager; and

b) continuing to carry out ~~the~~ an index-data fetch for another data identifier if there is another data identifier for the selected key value in the index and the index manager receives a specific condition from the data manager in response to the callback.

9. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 8 wherein step a) further comprises:

iii) determining whether the data specified by the data identifier is to be returned to a runtime; and

~~iiii~~iv) allowing the data manager to locate the data specified by the identifier and make a determination.

10. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 9 wherein the determination involves determining whether a predicate check or a data consuming operation on the data are possible.

11. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the predicate check or the data consuming operation is performed if it is possible to perform the predicate check or the data consuming operation and a specific condition is returned to the index manager.

12. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the specific condition comprises ~~the~~ a no data return condition.

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13. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 9 wherein the index comprises a plurality of pages having index nodes and the program instructions further comprises the steps of:

c) allowing the index manager to stabilize a page containing a node to be accessed in the index to locate the data identifier for the selected key value wherein the index manager does not release the stabilization of the page during a callback to the data manager.

14. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 9 wherein the index comprises a plurality of pages having index nodes and the database management system supports a set of access processes potentially able to access the index, the program instructions further comprising the step of:

c) determining if one of the set of access processes is waiting for an exclusive latch for accessing the index;

d) utilizing the index manager to copy the data identifier and key value from the index if there is such an access process; and

e) releasing stabilization of any pages in the index prior to any callback to the data manager.

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56. (new): The method of claim 1, wherein step a) further comprises:

iii) specifying that a callback is required when the data identifier is located.

57. (new): The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein step a) further comprises:

iii) specifying that a callback is required when the data identifier is located.